

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P034049-P0		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Form PCT/IPEA416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/008085		International filing date (day/month/year) 03.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.06.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F17/30, G06F17/60, G11B27/00				
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al.				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 17 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 34 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (Indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand  04.04.2005		Date of completion of this report  05.09.2005		
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized Officer  Laurentowski, A  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-6039 		

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/JP2004/008085

**Box No. I Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the **elements\*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

**Description, Pages**

1, 2, 4-41	as originally filed
3, 3a, 42-55, 55a	received on 07.04.2005 with letter of 04.04.2005

**Claims, Numbers**

1-34	received on 07.04.2005 with letter of 04.04.2005
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**Drawings, Sheets**

1/14-14/14	as originally filed
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- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

4. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☒ the description, pages 3, 3/1, 42-55, 55/1
- ☒ the claims, Nos. 1-34
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/JP2004/008085

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**Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention**

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1. ☒ In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees, the applicant has:
- ☐ restricted the claims.
  - ☒ paid additional fees.
  - ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
  - ☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with.
  - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:  
**see separate sheet**
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☒ all parts.
  - ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. .

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	4, 11, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 23-28
	No: Claims	1-3, 5-10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22, 29-31
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-31
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-31
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

**see separate sheet**

**I Objections under Article 34(2)(b) PCT**

- 1 The present set of claims introduces subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as filed, contrary to Article 34(2)(b) PCT.

The applicant has not provided a true and clear basis for the amended claims and description.

No basis for said amendments was evident in the application as filed either.

By way of example, some of the amendments concerned are the following:

- a) For claims 1 and 24 (and its respective dependent claims) the very broad terms: "using device", "device uses an object", and/or "object used by the using device";
  - b) For claims 2, 8, 18, 24, 32, 33 and 34 (and their respective dependent claims, if any) the very broad term: "using device";
  - c) For claim 14 (and its respective dependent claims) the very broad term: "using unit" and the entire wording appearing to describe an undisclosed embodiment;
  - d) For claim 18 (and its respective dependent claims) the very broad terms: "using unit" and "object used by the using unit";
  - e) For claims 16 and 21 the broad term "recording medium assigned to the object";
  - f) For claim 8 the broad term "portable recording medium";
  - g) For claims 26 and 28 particularly the term "distinguishable form";
  - h) The wording of claims 7, 13 and 19 (in particular the last three lines).
- 2 Due to the aforementioned reasons, the International Preliminary Examining Authority could not accept the amendments filed under Art.34 PCT and has to proceed with the application documents as originally filed.

**Re Item IV.**

**Lack of unity of invention**

This International Preliminary Examining Authority agrees with the findings of the International Searching Authority who found multiple (groups of) alleged inventions in this international application, as follows.

**1. Claims 1-9, 12, 17-20, 22-24, 28-31**

The first group of claims appears to describe a system comprising devices for storing identifiers and additional information (attributes) of objects used by a user, and for generating and presenting information about said objects, basing on the said object identifiers. Multiple independent claims present in this group seem to describe various embodiments of the same alleged invention.

The problem to be solved by the subject matter of these claims seems to be how to provide means for storing, presenting and searching information about a collection of products used or purchased by a user (in particular movies or other multimedia contents items), said means being convenient in usage.

**2. Claims 10,11**

The second group of claims appears to describe a device comprising a media contents playback unit, enabled to read a contents item's identifier while playing back the media from a recording medium storing the media contents item, and to store the said identifier as an identifier of an object used by a user.

The problem to be solved by the subject matter of these claims seems to be how to provide a device for automatic immediate acquisition of multimedia contents identifiers (e.g. movie identifiers), guaranteeing that only the identifiers of contents items which the user has actually started using (playing) are stored.

**3. Claims 13-16, 25-27**

The third group of claims appears to describe a device comprising a reading unit, enabled to read identifiers of objects used by a user from a medium attached to the object (said medium being for example an RFID tag or a two-dimensional code).

The problem to be solved by the subject matter of these claims seems to be how to provide a device for automatic acquisition of identifiers of physical products, without having to input any data manually.

**4. Claim 21**

The claim in the fourth group appears to describe a device storing position information

and advertisement information, enabled to acquire the current position of a portable user terminal and to generate appropriate advertisement information on that basis for presentation to the user.

The problem to be solved by the subject matter of this claim seems to be how to provide a device for generating customised advertisement information for users of mobile portable data retrieval equipment, to achieve that the advertisement information is relevant to the current physical location of the user and its portable equipment.

They are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT) for the following reasons:

The common features of the claims in the four groups defined above are as follows:

A management device comprising: (1) a storage unit operable to store one or more use object identifiers, each use object identifier identifying an object that has been used by a user; (2) a presentation-information generating unit operable to generate presentation information based on the use object identifiers; and (3) an outputting unit operable to output the presentation information.

All these common features have been very well known in the art at the priority date, e.g. from the popular PC shareware programs for cataloguing and managing video media collections like CATVids from fnprg.com or VideoList from WakefieldSoft or e.g. from any of following documents (each one taken separately): WO0054187-A1 (see p.4 l.15 - p.5 l.16, p.16 l.1-7, p.7 l.29 - p.8 l.20, p.12 l.19-23, p.19 l.21 - p.20 l.4, p.24 l.3-8 and p.24 l.20 - p.25 l.12, fig.9) or US20020059120 (see abstract, paragraphs: 5, 23-24, 34-35, 41-45, 65-74) or EP1079387-A (see abstract, paragraphs: 1-27, fig.1).

Since all the said common features are known and the aforementioned four different groups of claims are directed to the solution of different problems, these three different groups of claims are neither linked by the same or corresponding special technical features nor is there a single inventive concept in the claims, and thus the claims lack unity of invention (Rule 13 PCT).

**Re Item V.**

1 The following documents are referred to in this report:

- D1: ANONYMOUS: "CATVids version 5" WWW.FNPRG.COM, [Online] 2 April 2003 (2003-04-02), pages 1-8, XP002298249 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:<http://web.archive.org/web/20030402004010/www.fnprg.com/catvids/catvids.html>> [retrieved on 2004-09-22]
- D2: US 2002/059120 A1 (MILTON JAMES K) 16 May 2002 (2002-05-16)
- D3: ANONYMOUS: "VideoList" WWW.WAKEFIELDISOFT.COM, [Online] 11 April 2003 (2003-04-11), pages 1-6, XP002311285 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:[http://web.archive.org/web/20030411213107/http://www.wakefieldsoft.com/video list/](http://web.archive.org/web/20030411213107/http://www.wakefieldsoft.com/video%20list/)> [retrieved on 2004-12-09]
- D4: EP-A-1 079 387 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 28 February 2001 (2001-02-28)
- D5: US-A-5 979 757 (MURRAH JUDITH ET AL) 9 November 1999 (1999-11-09)
- D6: ASTHANA A ET AL: "A small domain communications system for personalized shopping assistance" IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERSONAL WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, 1994, BANGALORE, INDIA 18-19 AUG. 1994, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, 18 August 1994 (1994-08-18), pages 199-203, XP010211467 ISBN: 0-7803-1996-6
- D7: US-A-6 065 006 (MOBINI AMIR M ET AL) 16 May 2000 (2000-05-16)
- D8: EP-A-0 872 835 (SONY ELECTRONICS INC) 21 October 1998 (1998-10-21)
- D9: WO0054187 A1 (ROCK COM INC.) 14 September 2000 (2000-09-14)

**2 OBJECTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 6 PCT**

- 2.1 The present claims do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT with regards to clarity and full support by the description due to:

a) vague and unclear wording, e.g.:

- "pieces of attribute information each showing attributes of a corresponding one of the plurality of objects, in association" (How corresponding? In association with what? How are correspondence and association defined/established?) of claims 3, 6;
- the current wording of claims 7, 12, 16 is unclear to the extent hindering any reasonable understanding of the claimed subject matter;

b) attempts to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved, without providing the technical features necessary for achieving this result, e.g.:

"unit operable to generate presentation information based on the use object identifiers" (what is/are the technical meaning/features of "generating (...) based on (...) identifiers"? how are the "use object identifiers" used to generate said information? what are the features of the "presentation information"? ) of claims 1-3, 19, 22, 28-31 and, in consequence, of all their dependent claims.

c) the wording of claims 1-3, 19, 22 and 28-31, elaborated above under point b), is not fully supported by the description, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT, as no embodiment of "generating presentation information based on the use object identifiers" is present in the description as filed (cf. p.13 l.23 - p.14 l.5).

2.2 Due to the abovementioned reasons, the claimed subject-matter is unclear. Hence, the examination as to the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT is based on the examiner's interpretation of what is claimed, based on the application as a whole.

### 3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

3.1 The above-mentioned lack of clarity and support notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT, and therefore the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT are not met.



Insofar as this claim can be understood, document D2 shows all the features thereof, as follows (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

An information presentation system (see §21-§22) comprising:

- a) a storage unit (the Media Access Provider 140 storing the virtual inventory units 500 per each registered user - see §5, §21, §23 last 10 lines, §34-§36, §71), operable to store one or more object identifiers (the content handle 510 or unit number 530 or media content title - see §41-§45, fig.5), each object identifier identifying an object that has been used by a user (cf. §5, §21, §23 last 10 lines, §34-§35, §41-§42, §71);
- b) a presentation-information generating unit (the Media Content Owner 160 and/or the Media Access Provider software application - see §36, §70) operable to generate presentation information (virtual inventory units and/or input information for user devices enabling them to display media content information 540 and media contents - see §45, §47 first two lines, §70-74), based on the object identifiers (i.e. based on the contents of virtual inventory units including the aforementioned identifiers - note that "the user selects and requests a media content from his virtual inventory", which implicitly requires usage of content identifiers - cf. §73, fig.3, and note usage of content handle in processing a "content access request" - cf. §42) and output the presentation information (§45 last three lines, §73-74, fig.3); and
- c) a presenting unit that is provided in a portable device, and is operable to acquire and present the presentation information (see §23-§24, §45, §71-74).

3.2 Furthermore, for the sake of completeness and the above-mentioned lack of clarity and support notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT over the disclosure of other documents, e.g. D9 or D3, either.

Document D9 describes a system (a universal media player), comprising databases for storing catalogues of media objects (e.g. CD or DVD disks) owned by or accessible to users and a data collector which collects "statistical data about a user's use, (...) a list of purchased music, (...) a history of the user's playback of any of media or selections"

(see p.3 l.12-31, p.4 l.15 - p.5 l.16, p.7 l.29 - p.8 l.2, p.16 l.1-7, p.19 l.21 - p.20 l.4, p.22 l.25 - p.23 l.4, fig.9), whereas identifiers of said media objects (e.g. CD or DVD identifiers) are acquired by reading their contents during playback or by scanning a bar code from their package (cf. p.7 l.29 - p.8 l.20, p.12 l.19-23, p.24 l.3-8 and p.24 l.15 - p.25 l.12). Said system, which may comprise a portable device (a laptop - see p.3 l.21-22) presents media objects' information in a graphical user interface (see p.1 l.25-28, p.3 l.12-31, p.4 l.27- p.5 l.16, p.16 l.1-7, fig.5A ff.).

Document **D3** describes a system (a portable device executing a movie collection inventory programme called VideoList produced by WakefieldSoft LLC), comprising a database storing information (including the "inventory number" identifiers - see figs on p.5, the title, genre, director, actors, etc. per each movie) on films that the user owns, has seen or rented (see p.1 middle column, figures in the right-hand column, p.3 last 4 bullet paragraphs, p.4 last bullet paragraph, p.5). Said device is programmed to acquire said information from the user (see e.g. p.3 bullet paragraph "Fields List") or from a PC (see e.g. p.1 middle column, second paragraph, p.3 first two bullets) and to present it to the user on screen (see e.g. figs. on pp.1, 5, 6 and note also the "Find" feature there and the "Status" flag - see lower half of p.3).

Therefore, all the features of claim 1, insofar as this claim can be understood, are also anticipated by D9 or D3 and thus the criteria of Article 33(1)(2) PCT are not met.

#### **4 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 2**

The above-mentioned lack of clarity and support notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 2 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT, and therefore the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT are not met.

- 4.1 Document D1 describes the functionality of a programme (CATVids version 5.21 released on 07.02.2003 - see p.1 right-hand column, document D1 dated 02.04.2003), suitable to be executed on a "management device" (a computer), for creating and managing a private collection of movies and, insofar as this claim can be understood, this document discloses all the features of claim 2:

- a) a storage unit (the database - see p.1 middle column l.1 or p.2 last bullet paragraph) operable to store one or more use object identifiers (see the "Reference No" being the movie's identifier on the main window snapshot on p.7, or the movie's title as an alternative movie identifier being especially convenient for the user) (...);
- b) a presentation-information generating unit operable to generate presentation information based on the object identifiers (the CATVids program managing the database and generating windows for displaying on the computer's screen together with its module called "HTML Generator" for generating the HTML documents/reports - see p.1 middle column, p.2, main window snapshot on p.7, the "Contents data/Explore" window appearing after pressing the "Explore" button in the main window - see p.3 third bullet paragraph and p.8 for its screenshot); and
- c) an outputting unit (the computer screen displaying the "Contents data/Explore" window - see p.3 third bullet paragraph and p.7-8 for screen shots and/or the outputting/networking interface enabling publishing the documents generated by the HTML Generator "on the Internet" - see the fifth bullet on p.2 counting from the bottom of the page) operable to output the presentation information.

4.2 Furthermore, claim 2 appears to contain merely a subset of the same or corresponding features of claim 1 and, the above-mentioned lack of clarity and support notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 2 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT over the disclosure of documents D2 or D3 or D9 either, for the same reasons as given in §3 above, and thus the criteria of Article 33(1)(2) PCT are not met.

## 5 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 22

- 5.1 The above-mentioned lack of clarity and support notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 22 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT, over the disclosure of document D5 describing a portable terminal device receiving input from the bar code reader scanning a bar code on a product and presenting a message (the "presentation information") obtained from the "central host" (the "management device") concerning

associated products on the basis of customer's prior purchase record (see D5 col.1 l.22-36, col.3 l.31 - col.4 l.6, col.4 l.39-62, col.7 l.62 - col.8 l.10, col.9 l.6-12, col.14 l.3-24, fig.2-3, fig.7C).

Therefore, all the features of claim 22, insofar as this claim can be understood, are anticipated by D5 and thus the criteria of Article 33(1)(2) PCT are not met.

- 5.2 Furthermore, for the sake of completeness and the above-mentioned lack of clarity and support notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 22 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT, and therefore the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT are not met.

Document D1 can be regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 22, as the "portable terminal device" of claim 22 is mainly characterised by the features of the "management device" with which it cooperates (cf. above §4).

The only difference between the subject-matter of claim 22 and the disclosure of document D1 is that D1 does not explicitly disclose a portable terminal device receiving and presenting the "presentation information" acquired from the "management device". In other words, D1 does not explicitly disclose accessing the database system of D1 from a portable terminal device.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as how to adapt the system of D1 to enable its usage outside the user's normal place of stay (outside user's home - e.g. in a video rental shop).

Usage of portable devices like laptops or PDAs (either storing a copy of the database or equipped with a cable- or wireless network interface to access the database available on a network server) to "receive and present a presentation information" would be merely one of several straightforward common knowledge possibilities at the priority date, from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed (see also the usage of PDAs and/or WAP devices used for the same or similar purpose in document

D2 §23-§24 or in documents: D3 or D5 (col.1 l.22-36, col.3 l.31 - col.4 l.8, col.9 l.6-l.11) or D6 and notice the indication in D1 that the CATVids program provides a "HTML Generator to quickly generate documents to be published on the Internet" - p.2 fifth bullet paragraph counting from the bottom of the page).

The solution proposed in claim 22 of the present application cannot therefore be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

- 5.3 A similar conclusion could be drawn if document D9 were regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 22, due to a similar minor difference between the subject-matter of claim 22 and the disclosure of document D9.

## **6 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 29-31**

Independent claims 29-31 appear to contain only corresponding features to those of claim 2 and therefore said independent claims do not meet the requirements of Article 33 (1)(2) PCT in respect of novelty for the same reasons as stated above.

## **7 DEPENDENT CLAIM 10**

The subject-matter of claim 10 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT, and therefore the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT are not met.

Document D9 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 10 and this document discloses all the features of claim 2 on which claim 10 is dependent (see above §3.2 and §4.2), as well as all the features introduced in claim 10, as follows:

- a) each of the objects is a content (e.g. audio or video on a CD or DVD disk - see D9 e.g. p.7 l.29 - p.8 l.2, p.11 l.10-14, p.16 l.1-7, p.25 l.8-11);
- b) the management device further comprises a playback unit operable to play back each content (see D9 p.3 l.12-31, p.8 l.6-18);

- c) the acquiring unit, when the playback unit plays back the content, reads a use content identifier assigned to the content from a recording medium recording therein the content (reading the "CD data shape" used as the identifier - see D9 p.7 l.29 - p.8 l.18, p.12 l.19-23, p.24 l.3-8 and p.24 l.20 - p.25 l.7);
- d) the storage unit stores read content identifiers as the use object identifiers (see D9 p.5 l.11-12, p.7 l.29 - p.8 l.2, p.19 l.21 - p.20 l.4, p.22 l.25 - p.23 l.4).

**8 DEPENDENT CLAIM 23**

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 23 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT. This is due to the fact that the features introduced in said claim are disclosed in document D1, being considered the closest prior art to the subject-matter of said claim (claim 22, on which claim 23 is dependent, has been proved to lack inventive step over the disclosure of D1 above under §5.2). Namely, said features are represented by the "searching" feature of D1, which discloses that search is performed in all fields, thus including, e.g. the title or "Reference Number",- see D1 p.1 middle col. fourth paragraph l.2 and p.2 bullet "Find information quickly" (in the middle of p.2).

Note also that the same feature (indeed being a common knowledge functionality in computer-aided systems for cataloguing/inventory management) has been disclosed in D3, as part of a similar system, implemented on a portable terminal device (note the "Find" option in screen snapshots in D3 on p.1 and p.5 or/and the status determination option used e.g. "to quickly determine if you have seen a movie" (see D3 lower half of p.3).

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 23 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

**9 DEPENDENT CLAIM 13**

The subject-matter of claim 13 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT, over the disclosure of document D9 describing means for "scanning a bar code identifier (...)

imprinted on the CD or the CD package" (see D9 p.8 l.9-13), and thus the criteria of Article 33(1)(2) PCT are not met (cf. also §3.2 and §4.2 above).

**10 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 14-15, 25, 27**

10.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 14-15, 25 and 27 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

10.2 Document D1 is considered the closest prior art to the subject-matter of **claims 25 and 27** (claim 23, on which said claims are dependent, has been proved to lack inventive step over the disclosure of D1 above under §8).

The subject-matter of claims 25 and 27 further differs from this known from D1 in that the claimed device comprises "a reading unit operable to read each of the use object identifiers (...) from a medium that is on the object", said medium being either a RFID tag or a two-dimensional code, respectively.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as how to adapt the portable terminal device receiving information from said "management device", as would be obvious for the skilled person (cf. above §4.1, §5.2 and §8), to enable contactless automatic acquisition of identifiers of said "objects" (e.g. DVD or CD discs), without having to input any data manually.

The solution proposed in claims 25 and 27 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons. The features of furnishing commodities with RFID tags or two-dimensional codes and equipping a portable terminal with a suitable scanner to read them are merely ones of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed (both RFID tags and two-dimensional codes were in common use in the world at the priority date).

Note also that:

- said features have already been employed for the same purpose in a portable terminal device, see document D5 col.1 l.22-36, col.3 l.31 - col.4 l.8, col.4 l.39-l.42, col.7 l.62 - col.8 l.10) and/or
- portable terminals, running MS Windows operating system, equipped with such scanners have been even available on the market well before priority date of present application (see e.g a product called PPT 2733, produced by Symbol Technologies, described in a leaflet dated December 2000, available on Internet under: [ftp://symstore.longisland.com/Symstore/pdf/PPT2733\\_34.pdf](ftp://symstore.longisland.com/Symstore/pdf/PPT2733_34.pdf)).

10.3 A similar conclusion as to lack of inventive step can be drawn for **claims 14-15** if document D1 were regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of said claims, for the same reasons as given above.

Alternatively, if document D9 were regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of said claims (cf. §9 above), the sole difference between the subject-matter of claims 14-15 and disclosure of D9 lies in usage of RFID tags or two-dimensional codes, respectively, instead of bar codes as disclosed in D9.

However, this slight constructional change comes within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art (both RFID tags and two-dimensional codes were in common use in the world at the priority date), especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. Consequently, the subject-matter of claims 14-15 lacks an inventive step also over the disclosure of D9.

## 11 DEPENDENT CLAIM 21

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 21 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

Document D3 is considered the closest prior art to the subject-matter of said claim (cf. §3.2 and §4.2 above to see how D3 anticipates the features of claim 2 on which claim 21 is dependent).



The difference between the subject-matter of claim 21 and the disclosure of D3 lies solely in features enabling the so called "location-dependent advertising" - a technique well known at the priority date. One of documents disclosing said features in the same purpose, context and result as the present application is D6 (see e.g. D6 sections 2-2.2 on p.200-202 and section 2.3.5, figs. 1-4, where the PSA server storing a list of products purchased by a user is regarded as the "management device" and the PSA (handheld device) presenting advertisements, examples of which are given on p.203 right col. 1.2-17, is regarded as the "presenting unit" in terms of claim 21).

It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved, to apply these features with corresponding effect to the system according to document D3, thereby arriving at a system according to claim 21. Said claim does not therefore involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

**12 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 3-9, 11, 12, 16-20, 24, 26, 28**

Dependent claims 3-9, 11, 12, 16-20, 24, 26, 28, as far as they can be understood, do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT), since these features are either known from or suggested by the prior art (cf. D1 or D3 or D9) or specify merely common general knowledge in the technical field.

package medium.

(patent reference 1)

Japanese patent publication No. 2001-216325

5

### Disclosure of the invention

In view of the aforementioned problem, the object of the present invention is to provide an information presentation system, a management device, and an information presentation method, which enable users to easily access information relating to the package media of the users even away from home.

So as to achieve the above object, the present invention is an information presentation system including a using device, a management device, and a portable terminal device, where the using device uses an object and transmits to the management device an object identifier identifying the object used by the using device, the management device receives and stores the object identifier, and generates presentation information based on the object identifier and according to a request from the terminal device, and outputs the generated presentation information, and the terminal device requests the presentation information from the management device, and

presents the presentation information.

With this technology, a user can use the presentation

the computer program or the digital signal via an electric communication circuit, wired/wireless communication circuits, and a network represented by the Internet.

In addition, the present invention may be a computer  
5 system equipped with a microprocessor and a memory, where the memory stores therein the computer program, and the microprocessor operates according to this computer program.

In addition, the present invention may be realized by another and independent computer system, by conveying the  
10 program or the digital signal, in the form of being recorded in any of the aforementioned recording media, or by transmitting the program or the digital signal via the aforementioned network and the like.

(14) The present invention may be a combination of any  
15 of the embodiments and the modification examples.

### 3. Summary

As described above, the present invention is an information presentation system including a using device,  
20 a management device, and a portable terminal device, where the using device uses an object and transmits to the management device an object identifier identifying the object used by the using device, the management device receives and stores the object identifier, and generates presentation information

based on the object identifier and according to a request from the terminal device, and outputs the generated presentation information, and  
the terminal device requests the presentation information  
5 from the management device, and presents the presentation information.

Furthermore, the present invention is a management device that makes up an information presentation system together with a using device and a terminal device, the  
10 management device including: a receiving unit operable to receive an object identifier identifying a used object from the using device; a storage unit operable to store the object identifier received by the receiving unit; a presentation-information generating unit operable to  
15 generate presentation information based on the object identifier and according to a request from the terminal device; and an outputting unit operable to output the presentation information to the terminal device.

Still further, the present invention is a using device  
20 that makes up an information presentation system together with a management device and a terminal device, the using device including: a using unit operable to use an object; an acquiring unit operable to acquire an object identifier identifying the object used by the using unit; and a

transmitting unit operable to output the acquired object identifier to the management device, where the management device receives and stores therein the object identifier outputted from the transmitting unit, and generates  
5 presentation information based on the stored object identifier and according to a request from the terminal device, and the terminal device requests the presentation information from the management device, and presents the presentation information.

10 In addition, the present invention is a portable terminal device that makes up an information presentation system together with a using device and a management device, the terminal device including: an input-receiving unit operable to receive an input from an external source; a  
15 presentation-information acquiring unit operable to acquire, according to the received input and from the management device storing therein an object identifier identifying an object used by the using device, presentation information generated based on the object identifier; and a presentation unit  
20 operable to present the acquired presentation information.

According to these structures, the user can use the presentation information without complicated operations. In addition, if carrying a terminal device with him, a user can access the information relating to the objects that the user

has used, from any place such as away from home.

Here, the management device may further include an attribute-information storage unit operable to store i) a plurality of object identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of objects in association with ii) pieces of attribute information each showing attributes of a corresponding one of the plurality of objects, wherein the presentation-information generating unit generates the presentation information based on i) attribute information, from among the pieces of attribute information stored in the attribute-information storage unit, which corresponds to the received object identifier, and ii) the received object identifier.

According to this structure, the management device generates presentation information based on i) the pieces of attribute information that the device stores, and ii) the object identifiers. Therefore, if an object identifier is stored in the management device, information relating to the corresponding object may also be used.

Here, the management device may further include an extraction unit operable to extract the attribute information that corresponds to the received object identifier, from the pieces of attribute information stored in the attribute-information storage unit, where the storage unit

further stores the extracted attribute information in association with the received object identifier.

According to this structure, the received object identifier is stored in association with attribute  
5 information. Therefore presentation information can be immediately generated and outputted as required, which reduces a wait time for a user in acquiring the presentation information.

Here, the management device may further include the  
10 pieces of attribute information stored in the attribute-information storage unit are grouped under a plurality of categories, the request from the terminal device includes a particular one of the categories, and the presentation information is generated based on the  
15 attribute information that includes the particular category and an object identifier corresponding to the attribute information.

According to this structure, the presentation information is generated based on attribute information.  
20 This is useful in searching for objects using attribute information.

Here, the management device may further include an attribute-information acquiring unit operable to acquire, from another device, attribute information showing attributes



of an object identified by the received object identifier, where the storage unit further stores the acquired attribute information in association with the received object identifier.

5       According to this structure, the pieces of attribute information are acquired from another device. Therefore, the management device does not have to store the pieces of attribute information, and so the memory within the management device can be used efficiently.

10       Here, the management device may further be a portable recording medium connectable to the using device and to the terminal device, where the receiving unit receives the object identifier when the management device is connected to the using device, and the outputting unit outputs the presentation  
15 information when the management device is connected to the terminal device.

      According to this structure, the generated presentation information is outputted to the portable terminal device. Therefore the user is able to use the presentation information  
20 generated by the management device, away from home and so on.

      Here, a structure is possible in which the pieces of attribute information stored in the storage unit are grouped under a plurality of categories, the request from the terminal

device including a particular one of the categories, and the presentation information is generated based on the attribute information that includes the particular category and an object identifier corresponding to the attribute information.

5       According to this structure, the presentation information is generated based on attribute information. This is useful in searching for objects using attribute information.

10       Here, a structure is possible in which the request from the terminal device includes a particular object identifier, and the presentation information shows whether the particular object identifier included in the request from the terminal device is stored in the storage unit.

15       In addition, the terminal device may further include an identifier-acquiring unit operable to acquire a particular object identifier identifying a particular object, where the presentation-information acquiring unit requests, from the management device, presentation information showing whether the acquired particular object identifier is stored in the management device.

20

      According to these structures, the outputting unit outputs the result of judging as to whether the object identifier has already been recorded. Therefore the user is able to perform search as to whether the object corresponding

to the object identifier has been already recorded or not.  
This is useful in judging whether an object was purchased  
or rented, for example.

Here, in the management device, it is possible to have  
5 a structure in which the request from the terminal device  
includes a plurality of object identifiers, and the  
presentation information shows, for each of the plurality  
of object identifiers included in the request from the terminal  
device, whether the object identifier is stored in the storage  
10 unit.

In addition, in the terminal device, it is possible to  
have a structure in which the input-receiving unit further  
receives input of a plurality of object identifiers, the  
presentation-information acquiring unit further requests the  
15 presentation information showing, for each of the plurality  
of object identifiers, whether the object identifier is stored  
in the management device, and the presentation unit further  
presents the presentation information in which object  
identifiers stored in the management device are shown in a  
20 distinguishable form from object identifiers not stored in  
the management device.

According to these structures, information on whether  
a plurality of object identifiers exist is outputted.  
Therefore, the user will be informed of whether the

corresponding objects have already been recorded, at a time. In addition, information on each object will be presented in a distinguishable form, which will improve usability.

The management device may further includes a password  
5 storage unit operable to store a first password; and a password  
receiving unit operable to receive a second password from  
the terminal device, where the presentation-information  
generating unit judges whether the first password matches  
the second password, and when judging affirmatively,  
10 generates the presentation information.

According to these structures, the presentation  
information is outputted only when the two passwords have  
matched. Therefore it will keep away other parties who do  
not know about the correct password. This helps protect the  
15 privacy of the user.

The management device may further include an information  
storage unit operable to store position information and items  
of advertisement information each having a dependence on  
attributes of objects and positions; an attribute-information  
20 storage unit operable to store i) a plurality of object  
identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of objects  
in association with ii) pieces of attribute information each  
showing attributes of a corresponding one of the plurality  
of the objects; and a position-information acquiring unit

operable to acquire position information that indicates a current position of the terminal device, where the presentation-information generating unit extracts at least one of the items of advertisement information depending on  
5 attributes corresponding to the received object identifier and the acquired position information, and sets the extracted item of advertisement information as the presentation information.

According to this structure, advertisement information  
10 can be transmitted in accordance with the information on a current position of the user, who is holding the terminal device, and the attributes of the objects having been used by the user. This is advantageous for the transmitting party because the advertisement effect heightens, as well as for  
15 the user because he can acquire useful information.

Here, the using device may further include the acquiring unit acquires the object identifier by receiving an input from a user of the using device.

In addition, in the using device, it is possible to have  
20 a structure in which the object identifier is stored in a recording medium assigned to the object, and the acquiring unit acquires the object identifier from the recording medium.

According to these structures, even when objects are books, sundry articles, or the like, the object identifiers

which correspond to objects having been used by the user, can be recorded by a simple operation of either 1) inputting of each object identifier or 2) reading of such an identifier from the recording medium.

5        Here, the recording medium may be an RFID tag.

      In addition, in the terminal device, it is possible to have a structure in which the particular object identifier is recorded in an RFID tag assigned to the particular object, and the identifier-acquiring unit acquires the particular  
10 object identifier from the RFID tag.

      According to these structures, object identifiers can be read through RFID tags. Therefore the user can easily access the presentation information, without complicated operations such as inputting of such object identifier.

15        Here, in the terminal device, the identifier-acquiring unit has a function of reading a plurality of object identifiers from a plurality of RFID tags, the presentation-information acquiring unit acquires the presentation information showing, for each of the plurality of object identifiers, whether the  
20 object identifier is stored in the management device, and the presentation unit presents the presentation information in which object identifiers stored in the management device are shown in a distinguishable form from object identifiers not stored in the management device.

According to this structure, the user can conduct a search as to whether a plurality of objects have been entered or not, at a time. In addition, shops and the like generally have varieties of commodities, including the objects. Use  
5 of RFID is useful if used in such shops, because use of RFID enables the terminal device to read the plurality of object identifiers at once, by one control for the terminal device. This eliminates the trouble of taking out a plurality of objects one by one in an attempt to input the object identifiers.

10 Here, the recording medium may be a two-dimensional code.

In addition, in the terminal device, it is possible to have a structure in which the particular object identifier is recorded in a two-dimensional code assigned to the particular object, and the identifier acquiring unit acquires  
15 the particular object identifier from the two-dimensional code.

According to these structures, object identifiers can be read through two-dimensional codes. Therefore the user can use the presentation information, without complicated  
20 operations such as inputting.

In addition, the present invention is a management device that makes up an information presentation system together with a terminal device, the management device including: a using unit operable to use an object; an acquiring unit operable

to acquire an object identifier identifying the object used  
by the using unit; a storage unit operable to store the acquired  
object identifier; a presentation-information generating  
unit operable to generate presentation information based on  
5 the object identifier stored in the storage unit and according  
to a request from the terminal device; and an outputting unit  
operable to output the presentation information to the  
terminal device.

According to this structure, at the time when a content  
10 is played back, the corresponding content identifier is  
acquired from the recording medium. This means that, without  
complicated operations, the user can record the object  
identifiers that correspond to contents that the user has  
used, only by using the content.

15 Here, in the management device, it is possible to have  
a structure in which the object is a digital content, the  
use performed by the using unit is to play back the digital  
content, the digital content and the object identifier are  
stored in a portable recording medium, where the recording  
20 medium further recording therein attribute information  
showing attributes of the digital content, the acquiring unit  
further acquires the attribute information from the recording  
medium, the storage unit further stores therein the acquired  
attribute information in association with the object



identifier, and the presentation-information generating unit generates the presentation information based on the object identifier and the attribute information that is stored in association with the object identifier in the storage unit.

5       According to this structure, attribute information is acquired from a recording medium. This means that only the management device is necessary for recording the object identifier. Therefore, another apparatus or operation for communicating with the other apparatus is unnecessary. This  
10 also helps prevent increase in cost, as a system.

Here, in the management device, it is possible to have a structure in which the object identifier is stored in a recording medium assigned to the object, and the acquiring unit acquires the object identifier from the recording medium.

15       According to these structures, the use object identifiers, which correspond to objects having been used by the user, can be recorded by a simple operation of reading of such an identifier from the recording medium.

Here, in the management device, it is possible to have  
20 a structure in which an attribute-information acquiring unit operable to acquire attribute information showing attributes of the object identified by the acquired object identifier, where the storage unit further stores therein the acquired attribute information in association with the object

identifier.

According to this structure, it becomes also possible to use attribute information showing attributes of the object.

5

#### Industrial Application

The present invention may be used managerially, repeatedly, and continuously, in the software industry providing software such as contents and computer programs in which copyrighted works such as movie and music are digitalized. Furthermore, the library information management apparatus and the memory card, of the present invention, may be produced and sold in the manufacturing industry of electric appliances or the like.

## Claims

1. (Amended) An information presentation system comprising a using device, a management device, and a portable  
5 terminal device, wherein

the using device uses an object and transmits to the management device an object identifier identifying the object used by the using device,

the management device receives and stores the object  
10 identifier, and generates presentation information based on the object identifier and according to a request from the terminal device, and outputs the generated presentation information, and

the terminal device requests the presentation  
15 information from the management device, and presents the presentation information.

2. (Amended) A management device that makes up an information presentation system together with a using device  
20 and a terminal device, the management device comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive an object identifier identifying a used object from the using device;

a storage unit operable to store the object identifier received by the receiving unit;

a presentation-information generating unit operable to generate presentation information based on the object identifier and according to a request from the terminal device; and

5 an outputting unit operable to output the presentation information to the terminal device.

3. (Amended) The management device of Claim 2, further comprising:

10 an attribute-information storage unit operable to store  
i) a plurality of object identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of objects in association with ii) pieces of attribute information each showing attributes of a corresponding one of the plurality of objects, wherein

15 the presentation-information generating unit generates the presentation information based on i) attribute information, from among the pieces of attribute information stored in the attribute-information storage unit, which corresponds to the received object identifier, and ii) the  
20 received object identifier.

4. (Amended) The management device of Claim 3, further comprising

an extraction unit operable to extract the attribute

information that corresponds to the received object identifier, from the pieces of attribute information stored in the attribute-information storage unit, wherein

the storage unit further stores the extracted attribute  
5 information in association with the received object identifier.

5. (Amended) The management device of Claim 4, wherein  
the pieces of attribute information stored in the  
10 attribute-information storage unit are grouped under a plurality of categories,

the request from the terminal device includes a particular one of the categories, and

the presentation information is generated based on the  
15 attribute information that includes the particular category and an object identifier corresponding to the attribute information.

6. (Amended) The management device of Claim 2, wherein  
20 the receiving unit further receives a user identifier identifying the user used the object, together with the reception of the object identifier,

the storage unit stores the received object identifier in association with the received user identifier,

the request from the terminal device includes a particular user identifier, and

the presentation information is generated based on an object identifier stored in association with the particular  
5 user identifier.

7. (Amended) The management device of Claim 2, further comprising

an attribute-information acquiring unit operable to  
10 acquire, from another device, attribute information showing attributes of an object identified by the received object identifier, and

the storage unit further stores the acquired attribute information in association with the received object  
15 identifier.

8. (Amended) The management device of Claim 7, being a portable recording medium connectable to the using device and to the terminal device, wherein

20 the receiving unit receives the object identifier when the management device is connected to the using device, and

the outputting unit outputs the presentation information when the management device is connected to the terminal device.

9. (Amended) The management device of Claim 7, wherein  
the pieces of attribute information stored in the storage  
unit are grouped under a plurality of categories,

5 the request from the terminal device including a  
particular one of the categories, and

the presentation information is generated based on the  
attribute information that includes the particular category  
and an object identifier corresponding to the attribute  
10 information.

10. (Amended) The management device of Claim 2, wherein  
the request from the terminal device includes a  
particular object identifier, and

15 the presentation information shows whether the  
particular object identifier included in the request from  
the terminal device is stored in the storage unit.

11. (Amended) The management device of Claim 10, wherein  
20 the request from the terminal device includes a plurality  
of object identifiers, and

the presentation information shows, for each of the  
plurality of object identifiers included in the request from  
the terminal device, whether the object identifier is stored

in the storage unit.

12. (Amended) The management device of Claim 2, further comprising:

5 a password storage unit operable to store a first password; and

a password receiving unit operable to receive a second password from the terminal device, wherein

the presentation-information generating unit judges  
10 whether the first password matches the second password, and when judging affirmatively, generates the presentation information.

13. (Amended) The management device of Claim 2, further comprising:

15 an information storage unit operable to store position information and items of advertisement information each having a dependence on attributes of objects and positions;

an attribute-information storage unit operable to store  
20 i) a plurality of object identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of objects in association with ii) pieces of attribute information each showing attributes of a corresponding one of the plurality of the objects; and  
a position-information acquiring unit operable to



acquire position information that indicates a current position of the terminal device, wherein

the presentation-information generating unit extracts at least one of the items of advertisement information depending on attributes corresponding to the received object  
5 identifier and the acquired position information, and sets the extracted item of advertisement information as the presentation information.

10 14. (Amended) A management device that makes up an information presentation system together with a terminal device, the management device comprising:

a using unit operable to use an object;

an acquiring unit operable to acquire an object  
15 identifier identifying the object used by the using unit;

a storage unit operable to store the acquired object identifier;

a presentation-information generating unit operable to generate presentation information based on the object  
20 identifier stored in the storage unit and according to a request from the terminal device; and

an outputting unit operable to output the presentation information to the terminal device.

15. (Amended) The management device of Claim 14, wherein  
the object is a digital content,  
the use performed by the using unit is to play back the  
digital content,

5 the digital content and the object identifier are stored  
in a portable recording medium, where the recording medium  
further recording therein attribute information showing  
attributes of the digital content,

the acquiring unit further acquires the attribute  
10 information from the recording medium,

the storage unit further stores therein the acquired  
attribute information in association with the object  
identifier, and

the presentation-information generating unit generates  
15 the presentation information based on the object identifier  
and the attribute information that is stored in association  
with the object identifier in the storage unit.

16. (Amended) The management device of Claim 14, wherein

20 the object identifier is stored in a recording medium  
assigned to the object, and

the acquiring unit acquires the object identifier from  
the recording medium.

17. (Amended) The management device of Claim 16, further comprising

an attribute-information acquiring unit operable to acquire attribute information showing attributes of the object identified by the acquired object identifier, wherein  
5 the storage unit further stores therein the acquired attribute information in association with the object identifier.

10 18. (Amended) A using device that makes up an information presentation system together with a management device and a terminal device, the using device comprising:

a using unit operable to use an object;

an acquiring unit operable to acquire an object  
15 identifier identifying the object used by the using unit;  
and

a transmitting unit operable to output the acquired object identifier to the management device, wherein

the management device receives and stores therein the  
20 object identifier outputted from the transmitting unit, and generates presentation information based on the stored object identifier and according to a request from the terminal device,  
and

the terminal device requests the presentation

information from the management device, and presents the presentation information.

19. (Amended) The using device of Claim 18, wherein

5       the transmitting unit outputs the acquired object identifier together with a user identifier identifying a user of the using device, and

          the management device stores user identifiers in association with object identifiers respectively identifying  
10   objects used by users, receives and stores therein the object identifier in association with the user identifier outputted from the transmitting unit, and generates the presentation information according to an object identifier corresponding to a particular user identifier included in the request from  
15   the terminal device.

20. (Amended) The using device of Claim 18, wherein

          the acquiring unit acquires the object identifier by receiving an input from a user of the using device.

20

21. (Amended) The using device of Claim 18, wherein

          the object identifier is stored in a recording medium assigned to the object, and

          the acquiring unit acquires the object identifier from

the recording medium.

22. (Amended) The using device of Claim 21, wherein  
the recording medium is an RFID tag.

5

23. (Amended) The using device of Claim 21, wherein  
the recording medium is a two-dimensional code.

24. (Amended) A portable terminal device that makes up an  
10 information presentation system together with a using device  
and a management device, the terminal device comprising:  
an input-receiving unit operable to receive an input  
from an external source;

a presentation-information acquiring unit operable to  
15 acquire, according to the received input and from the  
management device storing therein an object identifier  
identifying an object used by the using device, presentation  
information generated based on the object identifier; and  
a presentation unit operable to present the acquired  
20 presentation information.

25. (Amended) The terminal device of Claim 24, further  
comprising:

an identifier-acquiring unit operable to acquire a

particular object identifier identifying a particular object,  
wherein

the presentation-information acquiring unit requests,  
from the management device, presentation information showing  
5 whether the acquired particular object identifier is stored  
in the management device.

26. (Amended) The terminal device of Claim 25, wherein  
the input-receiving unit further receives input of a  
plurality of object identifiers,

the presentation-information acquiring unit further  
5 requests the presentation information showing, for each of  
the plurality of object identifiers, whether the object  
identifier is stored in the management device, and

the presentation unit further presents the presentation  
information in which object identifiers stored in the  
10 management device are shown in a distinguishable form from  
object identifiers not stored in the management device.

27. (Amended) The terminal device of Claim 25, wherein  
the particular object identifier is recorded in an RFID

15 tag assigned to the particular object, and

the identifier-acquiring unit acquires the particular  
object identifier from the RFID tag.

28. (Amended) The terminal device of Claim 27, wherein

20 the identifier-acquiring unit has a function of reading  
a plurality of object identifiers from a plurality of RFID  
tags,

the presentation-information acquiring unit acquires  
the presentation information showing, for each of the

plurality of object identifiers, whether the object identifier is stored in the management device, and

the presentation unit presents the presentation information in which object identifiers stored in the management device are shown in a distinguishable form from  
5 object identifiers not stored in the management device.

29. (Amended) The terminal device of Claim 25, wherein  
the particular object identifier is recorded in a  
10 two-dimensional code assigned to the particular object, and  
the identifier acquiring unit acquires the particular object identifier from the two-dimensional code.

30. (Amended) The terminal device of Claim 24, wherein  
15 the input-receiving unit receives input of a particular one of categories under which attributes of objects are grouped,

the presentation-information acquiring unit requests the presentation information by transmitting the particular  
20 category to the management device,

the management device stores a plurality of categories showing a plurality of attributes of a plurality of objects in association with objects identifiers respectively identifying the plurality of objects, and



the presentation information is generated based on attribute information corresponding to an object identifier associated with the user identifier and including the particular category.

5

31. (Amended) The terminal device of Claim 24, wherein the management device stores i) user identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of users in association with ii) object identifiers respectively identifying objects  
10 used by the users, and

the presentation-information acquiring unit transmits a particular user identifier identifying a particular user to the management device, and acquires the presentation information generated based on the object identifier  
15 associated with the particular user identifier.

32. (Amended) A management method used in a management device that makes up an information presentation system together with a using device and a terminal device, the management  
20 method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving an object identifier identifying a used object from the using device by means of a receiving unit;

a storage step of storing the received object identifier

by means of a storage unit;

a presentation-information generating step of generating presentation information based on the object identifier stored in the storage unit and according to a request  
5 from the terminal device, by means of a presentation-information generating unit; and

an outputting step of outputting the presentation information to the terminal device, by means of an outputting unit.

10

33. (Amended) A management program used in a management device that makes up an information presentation system together with a using device and a terminal device, the management program causes a computer to perform:

15 a receiving step of receiving an object identifier identifying a used object from the using device by means of a receiving unit;

a storage step of storing the received object identifier by means of a storage unit;

20 a presentation-information generating step of generating presentation information based on the object identifier stored in the storage unit and according to a request from the terminal device, by means of a presentation-information generating unit; and an

outputting step of outputting the presentation information to the terminal device, by means of an outputting unit.

34. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which  
5 a management program is stored, the management program being for use in a management device that makes up an information presentation system together with a using device and a terminal device, the management program causes a computer to perform:  
a receiving step of receiving an object identifier  
10 identifying a used object from the using device by means of a receiving unit;  
a storage step of storing the received object identifier by means of a storage unit;  
a presentation-information generating step of  
15 generating presentation information based on the object identifier stored in the storage unit and according to a request from the terminal device, by means of a presentation-information generating unit; and  
an outputting step of outputting the presentation  
20 information to the terminal device, by means of an outputting unit.